

**From:** L. Frank Turovich  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft (MS) should not be allowed to walk away from the damage they have done to both competitors, like Netscape and Sun, and subsequently, consumers of desktop computer products. Allowing Microsoft to continue as they have will lead to them having even more of a monopoly over our life, in more areas, then ever before.

To bring an analogy into the picture, it's not totally accurate, but hints at what I am trying to say. When the Ford Motor Company first starting producing Model-Ts, it was said you could buy them in any color, as long as it was black. To bring this into our day and time, you can buy any x86-based computer from any major PC company, as long as it runs MS Windows.

Now, due to the demands from the customer, and competition from other car manufacturers, Ford eventually was forced to offer cars in other colors simply to remain competitive. This in turn led the other car manufacturers to compete in other ways, to differentiate their product, and remain competitive. This competition has improved the cars themselves, drove innovation, and created several dominant car manufacturers, each one competing on a level playing field. Along the way it built up a huge billion dollar industry that continues to drive our economy.

Microsoft is in the same superior position that Ford once held, but unlike Ford, MS has such a stranglehold over their product line, their buyers, their software producers, their customers, that competition is not encouraged but stifled. Ford was unable to block other manufacturers from creating new products simply because he didn't own the paint companies other companies bought from, didn't own the steel mills that sold steel to competitors, nor owned the roads upon which competitor's cars could drive. MS does own these things, and they use them to monopolize the marketplace, control access to the market, stifle innovation, and as a base to expand their control into more areas of our life.

I for one, do not wish to live in a world where the only choice I have in auto color is black, nor one where my only OS and related software is produced by Microsoft. Not only would it be incredibly boring, but it takes away my fundamental right to choose. If there is only one option to buy, there is no choice. Having a MS-only world is a sure sign of the stagnation of ideas and competition and the decay of our technological infrastructure, and while it may look good in the short term for our economy, the long term will surely suffer enormously from this restriction.

Please make the correct decision to by reject the current settlement as written, go back to the bargaining table, and reach a solid, strong agreement that encourages competition in our marketplace, encourage innovation, and discourage any monopoly from using their vast power to extend their reach into other areas,.

Thank you,  
L. Frank Turovich